

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 SOE-02 NSCE-00
SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSF-01 SP-02 EB-08
COME-00 INRE-00 /061 W
-----084735 110946Z /10

O 110931Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9506
INFO DOE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DOE GERMANTOWN MD IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, JA
SUBJECT: US/JAPAN COOPERATION IN FUSION R&D

REF: (A) TOKYO 12195, (B) STATE 172016

1. DCM ARRANGED TO CALL ON MOFA OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS
REFTEL B CONTENTS. HE MET YATABE (NEWLY APPOINTED
DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL AFFAIRS),
HYODO (DIRECTOR, FIRST RESOURCES DIVISION, ECON AFFAIRS
BUREAU), AND WATANABE (DIRECTOR, FIRST NORTH AMERICA
DIVISION, AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU) TO STRESS USG STRONG
INTEREST IN REACHING FUSION R&D COOPERATION AGREEMENT.
(REASON FOR APPROACHING MOFA IN THIS MANNER WAS OBVIOUS
RELATIONSHIP OF PENDING FUSION R&D AGREEMENT TO FUKUDA
S&T INITIATIVE, WHICH MOFA HAS BEEN MANAGING).

2. MOFA OFFICIALS STATED THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR
MESSAGE FROM GOJ WASHINGTON EMBASSY AND FULLY SUPPORTED
COOPERATION IN FUSION IN PRINCIPLE. HOWEVER, THEY POINTED
OUT THAT WITHIN 24 HOURS AMB. TOGO WOULD BE DELIVERING
MESSAGE TO HIS APPROPRIATE COUNTERPART IN WASHINGTON
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WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING FUKUDA
INITIATIVE. WITHOUT GIVING EXACT WORDING, OFFICIALS
STATED THAT MESSAGE WILL PROPOSE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT
COMMITTEE OF HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM TWO GOVERNMENTS
APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER RESPECTIVELY TO
SUPERVISE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPANDED COOPERATION IN
ENERGY R&D. IT WAS OBVIOUS, THEY SAID, THAT FUSION WOULD

BE ONE OF SUBJECTS FOR COOPERATION DESIRED BY BOTH SIDES, AND THAT IT WOULD BE UP TO JOINT COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE IMPETUS FOR REACHING AGREEMENT ON FUSION AS WELL AS OTHER POSSIBLE FIELDS.

3. DCM REMINDED OFFICIALS THAT FUSION AGREEMENT DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN INITIATED MANY MONTHS BEFORE FUKUDA INITIATIVE AND HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT MOMENTUM GENERATED COULD BE LOST IF THERE WAS FURTHER DELAY. OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED THIS POINT AND SAID THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD HAVE TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO SEEING THAT THIS DID NOT HAPPEN. HOWEVER, THEY POINTED OUT, FUKUDA INITIATIVE IS DESIGNED TO BE SOMETHING MORE THAN PURE TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENT; IT IS INTENDED TO BE VIEWED AS EVIDENCE OF CLOSE US-JAPAN RELATIONS, AND IT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO SEPARATE FUSION R&D AS SEPARATE MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION BY HAVING MEETING OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS. THEY SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD NOT HURT ANYTHING TO WAIT ADDITIONAL DAY UNTIL PROPOSAL WAS DELIVERED TO USG BEFORE ANALYZING SITUATION FURTHER.

4. YATABE CONFIRMED PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING BY SAYING THAT PRIME MINISTER PLANS TO ASK PRESIDENT FOR COMMENT ON PROPOSAL DURING BONN SUMMIT IF OPPORTUNITY ARISES.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT MOFA RELUCTANCE TO ENDORSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPERTS MEETING IS TEMPORAL, SINCE IT WOULD NOT WANT TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH TAKES EDGE OFF OF FUKUDA INITIATIVE JUST AT TIME THAT PROPOSAL IS IN PROCESS OF DELIVERY AND BONN SUMMIT IS APPROACHING. IT IS NOT A SECRET IN JAPAN THAT US FUSION PROGRAM IS UNDER REVIEW (IMPLYING A CUT-BACK), AND ANY JAPANESE CONCERN ABOUT ESTABLISHING COOPERATION ON FUSION AS MENTIONED IN REFTEL B IS PROBABLY DUE MORE TO POSSIBILITY THAT FUSION EFFORT WILL BE REDUCED THAN TO ANY FEELING THAT US IS HANGING BACK ON AGREEMENT FOR OTHER MORE SUBTLE REASONS. MANSFIELD

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